CLAIMS:

We claim:

1. A server network architecture, the architecture comprising:
a plurality of cluster nodes connected via a SAN-based protocol; and
at least one router node bridging the plurality of cluster nodes to a LAN.

2. The architecture of claim 1, wherein the router node is connected to the LAN via a LAN-based protocol.

3. The architecture of claim 2, wherein the LAN-based protocol is TCP/IP.

4. The architecture of claim 1, wherein the router node is connected to the plurality of cluster nodes via a SAN-based protocol.

5. The architecture of claim 4, wherein the SAN-based protocol is INFINIBAND.

6. The architecture of claim 1, wherein a first router node and a second router node bridge the plurality of cluster nodes to the LAN.

7. The architecture of claim 6, wherein the second router node bridges to the plurality of cluster nodes after the first router node fails-over to the second router node.

8. The architecture of claim 6, wherein the first and second router node bridges to the plurality of cluster nodes in parallel.

9. The architecture of claim 1, wherein the router node comprises a session management agent for maintaining session information for sessions between the router node and a cluster node of the plurality of cluster nodes.

10. The architecture of claim 1, wherein the router node comprises a policy management agent for maintaining connection information and routing policies for the plurality of cluster nodes.

11. The architecture of claim 1, wherein the router node comprises a routing agent for maintaining connection information for the plurality of cluster nodes.

12. The architecture of claim 1, wherein the router node comprises a filter agent for bi-directional conversion between the SAN based protocol and a LAN based protocol.

13. The architecture of claim 1, wherein at least one cluster node comprises a management node for setting routing policies on the router node.

14. The architecture of claim 13, wherein the management node comprises a monitoring agent for obtaining statistics from the router node.

15. The architecture of claim 1, wherein a cluster node of the plurality of cluster nodes comprises a session management agent for holding session information.

16. The architecture of claim 1, wherein a cluster node comprises a policy management agent for maintaining routing policies for the plurality of cluster nodes.

17. A method of bridging a remote LAN client and a SAN cluster node, comprising the steps of:

receiving a LAN protocol communication from the remote LAN client;

transforming the LAN protocol communication into a SAN protocol communication; and

sending the SAN protocol communication to a SAN cluster node.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of:

establishing a connection between the remote LAN client and the SAN cluster node.

19. The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of:

maintaining statistical information for the SAN cluster node.

20. A method of bridging a SAN cluster node and a remote LAN client, comprising the steps of:

receiving a SAN protocol communication from the SAN cluster node;

transforming the SAN protocol communication into a LAN protocol communication; and

sending the LAN protocol communication to the remote LAN client.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of:

establishing a connection between the SAN cluster node and the remote LAN client.

22. A router comprising:

a session management agent to maintain session information for sessions with a plurality of cluster nodes over a LAN;

a routing agent to maintain connection information for the plurality of cluster nodes connected via a SAN-based protocol; and

a filter agent to covert between the SAN-based protocol and a LAN-based protocol.

23. The router of claim 22, further comprising:

a policy management agent to maintain routing policies for the plurality of cluster nodes.